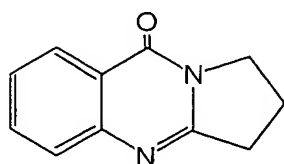
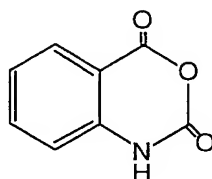


## CLAIMS

1. Process for the production of a compound of the following formula (I)



(I)



(II)

by converting a compound of formula (II) with 2-pyrrolidone, characterized in that an excess of 2-pyrrolidone is used, relative to compound (II),

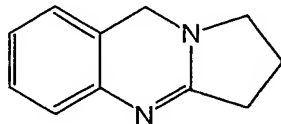
2. Process according to claim 1, characterized in that in a subsequent step the reaction product (I) is isolated directly from the reaction mixture by crystallisation.
3. Process according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that 1.5 to 5 mol, preferably 2 to 4 mol, especially preferably 2.5 to 3.5 mol, of 2-pyrrolidone are used, each value relative to the amount of compound (II).
4. Process according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the conversion is performed at 50 to 200 °C.
5. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that the temperature of the reaction mixture is initially heated to 70 to 130 °C, preferably to 80 to 120 °C, and subsequently to 140 to 200 °C, preferably 150 to 190 °C.
6. Process according to claim 5, characterized in that the said initial temperature is maintained for a period of 0.5 to 2 h, preferably 1 to 1.5 h, and the said subsequent

temperature is maintained for a period of 1 to 8 h, preferably from 2 to 5 h.

7. Process according to claim 6, characterized in that the reaction mixture is, after cooling, seeded with seed crystals of compound (I), and is maintained at room temperature, preferably at least 25 °C, for a period of 24 h to 7 days, preferably 50 to 100 h, to enable crystallisation.

8. Process according to claim 7, characterized in that the crystallisation is carried through at 30 to 70 °C, preferably at 40 to 60 °C.

9. Process for the production of a compound of the following formula (III), comprising the following steps:



(III)

- (A) Preparing compound (I) according to a process according to any one of claims 1 to 8;
- (B) reduction reaction, giving compound (III) in salt form;
- (C) liberating compound (III) from the salt.

10. Process according to claim 9, characterized in that a reaction product isolated by crystallisation according to any one of claims 1 to 8 is used as compound (I).

11. Process according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in that the reduction reaction (step B) is performed in the presence of zinc and acid.

12. Process according to claim 11, characterized in that compound (I), preferably in crystallised form, is initially dissolved in glacial acetic acid and that subsequently zinc and hydrochloric acid are added.

13. Process according to claim 12, characterized in that the reduction reaction is performed in the presence of aqueous sulfuric acid and zinc dust.

14. Process according to any one of claims 9 to 13, characterized in that subsequent to step (B), compound (III) is isolated as a salt by crystallisation from the reaction mixture.

15. Process according to any one of claims 9 to 14, characterized in that in step (C) the compound (III) is liberated from the salt by addition of a base, preferably by addition of NaOH.

16. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that step (C) is carried through under heating, with the compound (III), which is liberated from the salt, being obtained in molten form.

17. Process according to claim 16, characterized in that the compound (III) present in molten form is cooled down and, after freezing, is crystallised from aqueous alkaline solution.

18. Process for the production of compound (III), starting from a salt of said compound, characterized in that compound (III) is liberated and isolated from the salt as a free base in molten form.

19. Process according to claim 18, characterized in that the compound (III) present in molten form is cooled down

and, after freezing, is crystallised from aqueous alkaline solution.

20. Process for the production of a compound of formula (III) as indicated, characterized in that it contains a step wherein this compound is separated from the reaction mixture in liquid form.

21. Process for the production of a compound of formula (III) as indicated, according to claim 20, characterized in that said process comprises the following steps:

- reducing the aforementioned compound (I) to compound (III), which gives compound (III) in salt form;
- adding a base, whereby compound (III) is liberated from the salt and separates out in liquid form.

22. Use of a compound of formula (I), produced according to a process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, for the production of a compound of formula (III) as a free base or in the form of a salt.